

Perhaps his greatest attribute, however, is his experience directing a large, sprawling organization, made up of disparate agencies and cultures, to achieve a common mission. That is what he accomplished successfully as the commander of all U.S. military forces in the Pacific, and that is exactly what his mission will be as the DNI.

I think this is a very promising time for our intelligence community and our national security, and Admiral Blair's confirmation is a big part of that. I want to underscore what he told us in his confirmation hearing—that we are entering a “new era in the relationship” between Congress and the executive branch on matters of intelligence.

Specifically, Admiral Blair said that he will place great importance on keeping Congress informed—not just formally notified, but fully informed—on intelligence activities. He said that he will work to ensure that classification is not used as a way to, in his words, “hide things” from Members of Congress who need to know about them.

He stated clearly and I quote, “We need to have processes which don't just check a block on telling somebody but actually get the information across to the right people.”

These are very important commitments, and they portend good things for our intelligence community and for our national security. I have had the opportunity to speak with Admiral in great depth over the past several months, and these discussions have given me confidence in his sincerity with these commitments.

And I expect that, likewise, he and the Obama administration have confidence that Congress will hold them to it. In fact this cooperation has already begun.

With this new era of cooperation in mind, I want to state for the record that we have an opportunity to make a sharp turn toward new intelligence policies that will bolster our counterterrorism efforts and strengthen our national security in general.

To be accurate and valuable, intelligence must be politically neutral information, not spin. And it must be collected with methods that enjoy bipartisan support as both legal and effective.

To ensure this, secret intelligence activities must be subject to rigorous congressional oversight. We are the only independent reviewers of secret intelligence activities, and we are the only outside check on activities that are not legal or not effective.

Oversight should not be adversarial—it is a necessary partnership between the executive branch and the Congress.

I have fought to remove politics from intelligence and to restore Congress's vital oversight role since I joined the committee in 2001, and I will keep fighting for it now.

I don't want to get into who is at fault for the cycle we were caught in over the past several years. Instead I

want to look ahead to what is possible now.

I think there is a real chance that in this new year, we can have a new start.

We can and should debate how we go about collecting and analyzing intelligence—for instance on interrogation policies—but we can do that without the stain of political considerations.

Between the executive and legislative branches, we can and should engage and debate these policies, but we can do that in partnership, with the knowledge that more information exchanges and deliberations give rise to better intelligence collection and analysis.

In short, we can recognize that we are all on the same team when it comes to finding out the sensitive information we need to protect this great Nation.

If we play on that same team, I know we can have accurate, reliable intelligence that is collected in a way that makes this country proud, and is analyzed without the taint of political influence.

I congratulate Admiral Denny Blair on his confirmation.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for the nomination of ADM Dennis Blair to be the next Director of National Intelligence.

Over the past several weeks, Admiral Blair and I have spoken at length about the role of the DNI and the expectations that we in Congress will have of him.

First and foremost, we expect that the DNI will direct the intelligence community and not be a coordinator or consensus-seeker or govern by majority.

Second, the DNI must be a strong leader, standing on equal footing with the Secretary of Defense and other Cabinet officials.

Third, the DNI must assert appropriate authority over the CIA—it is the DNI, and the DNI alone, who should speak and act as the President's intelligence adviser.

I am pleased that Admiral Blair has pledged that he will come back to Congress to ask for any additional authorities if he determines that such authorities are needed to direct the intelligence community.

The intelligence community needs a strong leader right now. As we know, last week the President signed a number of Executive orders that not only will have a lasting impact on how we fight this war on terror but have created immediate and serious legal and practical problems in handling terrorist detainees.

Admiral Blair will play a key role in the implementation of these Executive orders.

I believe that the sooner he learns all the facts about the CIA's interrogation and detention program and the ramifications of closing Guantanamo Bay, the better he will be able to guide that process in a manner that will not jeopardize American lives.

Admiral Blair has had a long and distinguished career in Government service. He brings a lifetime of sound judgment and strong character to this difficult job.

I believe Admiral Blair is up to the task of leading the intelligence community and I would urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged of PN65-15 and 65-9; the Budget and Homeland Security Committee be discharged of PN65-12; and the Banking Committee be discharged of PN64-15; and the Senate then proceed, en bloc, to the nominations; that the Senate then proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of James Steinberg to be Deputy Secretary of State; Jacob Lew to be Deputy Secretary of State, Management and Resources; Robert Nabors to be Deputy Director, OMB; and Christina Romer to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisors?

The nominations were confirmed.

Mr. TESTER. I move to reconsider and table; and I ask unanimous consent that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Robert L. Nabors II, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Christina Duckworth Romer, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 26, the House adjournment resolution, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) providing for an adjournment of the House.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) was agreed to.

NATIONAL DATA PRIVACY DAY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 25, submitted earlier today by Senator DORGAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 25) expressing support for designation of January 28, 2009, as "National Data Privacy Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 25) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 25

Whereas the Internet and the capabilities of modern technology cause data privacy issues to figure prominently in the lives of many people in the United States at work, in their interaction with government and public authorities, in the health field, in e-commerce transactions, and online generally;

Whereas many individuals are unaware of data protection and privacy laws generally and of specific steps that can be taken to help protect the privacy of personal information online;

Whereas "National Data Privacy Day" constitutes an international collaboration and a nationwide and statewide effort to raise awareness about data privacy and the protection of personal information on the Internet;

Whereas government officials from the United States and Europe, privacy professionals, academics, legal scholars, representatives of international businesses, and others with an interest in data privacy issues are working together on this date to further the discussion about data privacy and protection;

Whereas privacy professionals and educators are being encouraged to take the time to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the country;

Whereas privacy is a central element of the mission of the Federal Trade Commission

and the Commission will need to continue to educate consumers about protecting their personal information, and their consumer education campaigns should be part of a National effort;

Whereas the recognition of "National Data Privacy Day" will encourage more people nationwide to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online; and

Whereas January 28, 2009, would be an appropriate day to designate as "National Data Privacy Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of a "National Data Privacy Day";

(2) encourages State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote awareness of data privacy;

(3) encourages privacy professionals and educators to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the United States; and

(4) encourages individuals across the Nation to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, January 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, tomorrow Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day as we continue to work through the remaining amendments to the children's health care bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:32 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

James Brady Steinberg, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomina-

tions by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

Robert L. Nabors II, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

Christina Duckworth Romer, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Wednesday, January 28, 2009:

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

DENNIS CUTLER BLAIR, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JACOB J. LEW, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES.
JAMES BRADY STEINBERG, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CHRISTINA DUCKWORTH ROMER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.
ROBERT L. NABORS II, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD A. HAUGHT
BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS J. HAYNES
BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG D. MCCORD
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT M. STONESTREET
BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD W. TONINI
BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS A. TURLEY

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MARGARET H. BAIR
COLONEL JAMES H. BARTLETT
COLONEL JORGE R. CANTRES
COLONEL SANDRA L. CARLSON
COLONEL STEPHEN D. COTTER
COLONEL JAMES T. DAUGHERTY
COLONEL GRETCHEN S. DUNKELBERGER
COLONEL ROBERT A. HAMRICK
COLONEL CHRIS R. HELSTAD
COLONEL CECIL J. HENSEL, JR.
COLONEL FRANK D. LANDES
COLONEL ROBERT L. LEEKER
COLONEL RICKIE B. MATTSOON
COLONEL MAUREEN MCCARTHY
COLONEL JOHN E. MCCOY
COLONEL JOHN W. MERRITT
COLONEL THOMAS R. SCHIESS
COLONEL RODGER F. SEIDEL
COLONEL GLENN K. THOMPSON
COLONEL DEAN L. WINSLOW
COLONEL WILLIAM M. ZIEGLER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. CROLEY
BRIG. GEN. TRACY L. GARRETT

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE